

- C3
1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a mammalian Tumor necrosis factor Receptor-Associated Factor (TRAF) protein-interacting hereditary multiple extoses (TREX) protein.
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- C4
5. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is an RNA molecule.
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- C5
7. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a mouse or human Tumor necrosis factor Receptor-Associated Factor (TRAF) protein-interacting hereditary multiple extoses (TREX) protein.
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- C6
12. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a Tumor necrosis factor Receptor-Associated Factor (TRAF) protein-interacting hereditary multiple extoses (TREX) protein comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.
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- C7
16. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a mutant homolog of the mammalian Tumor necrosis factor Receptor-Associated Factor (TRAF) protein-interacting hereditary multiple extoses (TREX) protein comprising a genetic alteration selected from the group consisting of a 9-bp insertion between nucleotide 758 and nucleotide 759, a base substitution of nucleotide 1106 from G to A, a base substitution of nucleotide

C7  
amended

1820 from A to G, and a base substitution of nucleotide 2408 from C to T.

C8

21. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

C9

98. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 12, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is a deletion mutant.

C10

101. (Amended) The vector of claim 22 adapted for expression in a host cell *in vitro* which comprises the regulatory elements necessary for expression of the nucleic acid molecule in the host cell operatively linked to the nucleic acid molecule encoding the Tumor necrosis factor Receptor-Associated Factor (TRAF) protein-interacting hereditary multiple extoses (TREX) protein, so as to permit the expression of the TREX protein.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 12-16, 21, 22 and 98-106 are pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, applicant has canceled claims 6, 14 and 15 without prejudice. Claims 1, 5, 7, 12, 16, 21, 98 and 101 have been amended to make certain formatting changes. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 7, 12, 13, 16, 21, 22 and 98-106 will be pending and under examination in the subject application upon entry of this Amendment.